

Week 3: Application Assignment

E-Communication & Online Community

Submit by the end of Week 3.

Name, grade level,
and subject taught:

Ellen Zimmerman, 9-12, Technology Classes

Date: 01/31/09

An online learning community is dependent on e-communication. Emails, e-presentations, e-newsletters, e-meetings, and e-publishing are all part of online learning.


In this week's Application assignment, you will create a wiki, and use your wikispace to invite colleagues, preferably at your school and grade level, to join you in establishing an online learning community.

Performance Outcomes

- Use skills and tools that support online learning communities for the purpose of improving student achievement.

Rubric

Use this rubric to guide your work on the School-Based Application.

Tasks 	Accomplished 15 The evidence suggests that this work is a "habit of mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 12 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 9 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Week 3 Application: E-Communication & Online Community Use skills and tools that support online learning communities for the purpose of improving student achievement.	Effectively demonstrates the use of skills and tools that support online learning communities by working in a wiki space. Responses show relevance to content of course. No errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Demonstrates the use of skills and tools that support online learning communities by working in a wiki space. Responses show some relevance to content of course. Few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Does not work in a wiki space. Responses do not show relevance to course content. Responses lack clarity and depth and/or multiple errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation.

Week 3 Application

Part 1: Creating a Wiki

A wiki is an excellent tool for establishing and facilitating an online learning community. Through the wiki, community members can collaboratively plan, share information, reflect on the information, and communicate with each other.

In the Week 3 Application assignment, you will set up a wiki account and invite colleagues, preferably at your campus and grade level, to join you in using the wiki to establish an online learning community.

Directions:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the right side of the screen under “Join Now,” fill out the first three boxes with a username, password, and your email address.
- Record your information in an appropriate file and email the file to me as an attachment in Blackboard.

Website Name and Address	Website's Purpose	My Username	My Password	My URL
www.edtalk.wikispaces.com	Increase technology use at my campus.	ezimmerman		http://www.wikispaces.com/user/my/ezimmerman
Wikispaces http://www.wikispaces.com				

Week 3 Application

Part 2: Inviting Wiki Members

Directions:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the left side of the screen under the word “Actions,” click on “Make a New Space.” This will take you to “Make a New Space Now.”
- In the box next to “Space Name,” give your space a name, which will be the URL to your newly created site.
- On the next page, be sure that “Protected” is selected at “Space Visibility.” All spaces must have permissions set to “Protected” to ensure integrity of your work. This will keep the public from modifying anything on your page. Only members of your wikispace will be able to edit content. Click “Join.”
- Close the “Getting Started with Your Wikispace” popup box.
- Click on the “Manage Space” link on the upper left-hand side of the page.
- Under “Space Settings,” click “Members and Permissions” link.
- Under “Invite a New Member,” key in one email address of a colleague who wants to join your wiki. Click “Invite.”
- When the invitation appears, you can add the other email addresses in the “To” bar. Insert commas between each email address. Edit the message to include your invitation to join the online learning community. *Did you invite me to join your wiki?* Click “Send.”
- Email me in Blackboard reminding me of your wikispace url. In the email share with me one of your colleague’s responses to the invitation?

Week 3 Application

Part 3: Creating a Wiki Home Page

After the colleagues at your school respond to the invitation to join the wiki, you will create a wiki home page for the online learning community.

Directions:

- Before beginning the assignment, access the “Wikis in Plain English” video by entering the following address in your web address bar:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wikis+in+plain+English&search_type=
- This video will provide you with additional information about using wiki as a tool for collaboration.
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To set up your Home page:

- Enter the following address into your address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- Under “Navigation” on the top left of the screen, click “Home.” You will edit this page to create a Home page for your online learning community.
- Click “Edit This Page” at the top of the screen, and create your Home page in the space. As you create the Home page, keep in mind that the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus.
- On the Home page, include the following:
 - The name of your online learning community and campus location.
 - The names of the members and their positions (grade level/content area).

- The purpose of the online learning community. (Remember, the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus. Support your purpose statement with data that you collected in the Project 1 Analysis and Project 2 Application.)
- One question to get the members' ideas flowing. (Relate the question you pose to the data you collected from the Texas Star Chart.)
- Other members may add to the list of questions, or click Discussion and enter their comments. The wikispace <http://coeprofessionaldevelopment.wikispaces.com/> also contains an example discussion page.
- Click "Save." The home page will be saved as Home under "Navigation." In an email, please notify me that your home page has been created. Including the url of your home page will be helpful. Also, please tell me in the email how you envision using the wiki to facilitate an online learning community? What are the benefits of using this tool? The challenges?